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Report Highlights:

The German Ministry of Agriculture does not view the latest outbreaks of high pathogen avian influenza (HPAI) in Germany's neighboring country Poland as a threat. No poultry products have been imported recently by Germany from affected areas in Poland.

This report also provides a summary of the HPAI situation in Germany for 2007. This year, HPAI was confirmed in 326 wild birds, two commercial farms, and one backyard flock, all in Eastern and Southern Germany. Poultry consumption rebounded from the HPAI related decrease that had occurred in 2006.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Annual Report
Berlin [GM1]
[GM]

Reaction to HPAI outbreaks in Poland

On December 1, 5, and 8, Poland reported outbreaks of HPAI (for details see GAIN report PL7056, PL7057, and PL7058). At this point, the German Government has no indication that poultry products from the affected areas might have been exported to Germany. As a result, Germany does not see any need to be worried or revise its own risk assessment or measures.

Updated German AI Risk Assessment

The German reference laboratory *Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut* (FLI) last revised its risk assessment on October 15, 2007. At that time, FLI established new break-out categories for risk associated with "product movement/trade" and "vehicles" for within Germany and coming from abroad. In addition, distinction between migratory and resident wild birds was dropped and merged into just one category "wild birds". In detail, the current FLI risk assessment states the following risk levels¹:

- | | |
|---|------------|
| - Infection through illegal imports: | high |
| - Infection through wild birds: | high |
| - Infection through animal/product movement within Germany: | moderate |
| - Infection through legal imports: | negligible |
| - Infection through vehicle movement within Germany: | moderate |
| - Infection through vehicles coming from abroad: | negligible |

Summary of HPAI situation in Germany for 2007

HPAI in a Backyard and Two Commercial Flocks

HPAI was confirmed in a goose in a backyard operation in Thuringia on July 6, 2007, as well as in two commercial duck farms in Bavaria on August 25, and September 10, 2007. Protection and surveillance zones were established immediately², and all affected flocks were destroyed. In the meantime, all zones were dropped again in line with the regulations.

Table1: Geographical distribution of confirmed HPAI (H5N1) cases in commercial flocks in Germany, as of December 12, 2007.

State	Date	Deceased	Size of Destroyed Flock	Species
Bavaria	September 10	0	170856	ducks
Bavaria	August 8	4000	169857	ducks
Thuringia	July 5	1	10	geese/ducks

¹ The risks categories are defined as

- Likely: circumstance can happen or could be reasonably expected
 High: probability of this circumstance to occur is higher than average
 Medium: probability is on an average level
 Low: probability is below average
 Negligible: probability is so low that there is no need to look at this circumstance

² As a result of a reported suspected HPAI case, routinely, a 3 km protection zone is established for 21 days and a 10 km surveillance zone for 30 days. In the protection zone

- transport of birds, poultry and poultry meat is prohibited,
- birds and poultry have to be kept indoors,
- commercial poultry farms may only be entered by farm personnel and vets,
- mats with disinfectants have to be placed at the entrances and exits of poultry holdings, and
- cats and dogs are prohibited from roaming freely.

HPAI Cases in Wild Birds

Germany has an ongoing wild bird monitoring system in place that tests for HPAI. From January 1, through October 15, 18,199 wild birds were tested. As of December 12, 2007, through these tests 326 cases³ of HPAI were confirmed in wild birds in Germany. All of these cases occurred between June and August, the first case on June 24, 2007, the last one on August 15, 2007. Protection and surveillance zones around all sites where the birds were found were established immediately in all instances. All zones were dropped again in line with the regulations after 21 and 30 days, respectively. The vast majority of cases in wild birds occurred at a dam at the border of Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia. Most of the affected birds consisted of black-necked grebes (*Podiceps nigricollis*).

Table1: Geographical distribution of confirmed HPAI (H5N1) cases in wild birds in Germany, as of December 12, 2007.

	2006	2007
Saxony - Anhalt		220
Thuringia		80
Bavaria	73	19
Saxony	2	7
Berlin	1	
Lower-Saxony	2	
Baden-Wuerttemberg	19	
Brandenburg	21	
Schleswig-Holstein	32	
Mecklenburg-West Pomerania	194	
Total	344	326

Press and Consumer Reaction

The focus of press coverage in 2007 changed substantially compared to 2006. In 2006, papers were full of pictures of dead birds and much was written about possible threats to human health. In 2007, the focus was on the effect that protection and surveillance zones have on free range egg producers, hobby farmers, and dog and cat owners.

This summer's cases seem to have had little effect on consumer purchases of poultry meat. In fact, poultry consumption rebounded from the HPAI related drop in 2006. From January through August 2007, reported household purchases of broiler meat were 11.5 percent higher than in the same period of 2006 and only 1.7 percent below the level of 2005 (source: German Central Market and Price Reporting Agency (ZMP)).

Key Facts on the Poultry Sector in Germany

In 2006, Germany produced 1.03 million MT of poultry meat and 804,000 MT or 13 billion pieces of eggs⁴. The production value at the producer level amounted to US\$ 1.66 billion (1.1 billion Euro) for poultry plus US\$ 680 million (544 million Euro) for eggs. In total, poultry and egg production holds a 4.4 percent share of the total German agricultural production.

According to the animal census carried out in May 2005, Germany reports a total of 120.6 million live poultry animals. Broken down, this represents 107 million chickens, thereof 50 million laying hens and chicks and 57 million broilers, plus 11 million turkeys, 2.4 million ducks, and 329,500 geese.

³ This compares to 344 cases in wild birds in 2006

⁴ This includes edible eggs and hatching eggs.

The top five poultry producing states are Lower-Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bavaria, Saxony-Anhalt, and Saxony, with 44, 9, 8, 7 and 7 percent of the poultry population, respectively.

Table: Poultry numbers in Germany and selected HPAI affected German States in May 2005*

	Germany total	Bavaria	Saxony-Anhalt	Saxony	Thuringia
Chickens	107 million	9 million	8.1 million	7.8 million	4.3 million
Turkeys	11 million	659,900	704,800	223,900	157,700
Ducks	2.4 million	91,700	184,200	14,100	9,000
Geese	329,500	9,300	6,300	39,300	9,200
Total Poultry	120.6 million	9.8 million	8.98 million	8.04 million	4.4 million

* Latest available data

Source: German Federal Office of Statistics, Wiesbaden

Related reports:

Report		Title	Date released
GM7040	Germany	AI: Outbreak in Commercial Duck Farm	08/27/2007
GM7030	Germany	AI update: Total Number Rises to 240 Wild Birds, One Goose on Backyard Farm	07/13/2007
GM7025	Germany	AI Re-Appears in Wild Birds	06/25/2007
GM6015	Germany	AI confirmed in a Commercial Poultry Farm - Consumer Reaction Limited	04/07/2006
GM6011	Germany	AI Update: AI confirmed in cats and suspected in a beech marten	03/10/2006
GM6008	Germany	AI update: 127 cases in wild birds none in domestic poultry	03/02/2006
GM6007	Germany	AI among wild birds reaches German mainland	02/21/2006
GM6005	Germany	AI Confirmed in Two Dead Swans in Northern Germany	02/16/2006
GM5042	Germany	Avian Influenza Update: Free Range Chicken Allowed Outside Again	12/19/2005
GM5035	Germany	AI-Threat: German Poultry Must Stay Inside - But Only in Certain Regions	09/12/2005
PL7058	Poland	New Avian Influenza H5N1 Outbreak in Poland	12/11/2007
PL7057	Poland	Update on AI Outbreak in Poland	12/05/2007
PL7056	Poland	Outbreak of Highly Pathogen Avian influenza	12/03/2007
E47061	EU-27	Poultry And Products Annual Report	07/20/2007

All cited reports can be accessed through:

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/AttacheRep/default.asp>